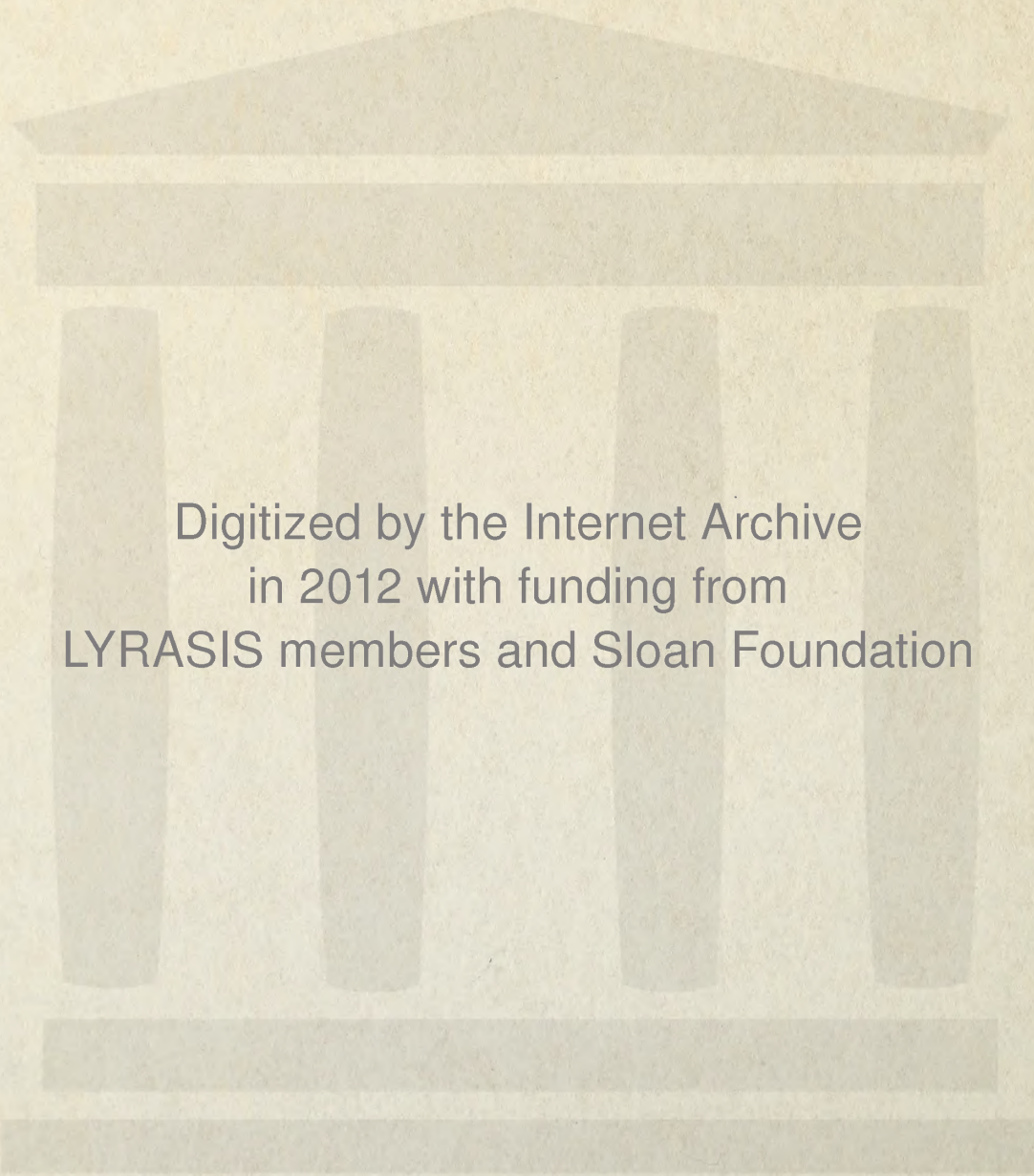


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GOVERNOR THOMAS W. BICKETT AND
THE WORLD WAR



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GOVERNOR THOMAS W. BICKETT AND THE WORLD WAR.

Without foreseeing, of course, that they were selecting a man admirably fitted to lead the State through the trials of a World War, the people chose Thomas Walter Bickett as Governor in 1916. O. Max Gardner, of Cleveland County, was elected Lieutenant-Governor.

THE GOVERNOR'S EARLIER LIFE. - Governor Bickett was born in Monroe in 1869. He was graduated from Wake Forest College in June 1890. After teaching in the public schools for two years, he entered the Law School of the University in 1892. The Supreme Court granted him a license to practice law in February 1893. He opened his first office in Danbury, but in 1895 he moved to Louisburg, and continued to practice there until he was elected Attorney-General of the State in 1908. His election as Governor followed eight years of service as Attorney-General.

A CLEAR PROGRAMME. - The new Governor met each session of the Legislature with a frank, clearly-marked out programme of what he thought the lawmakers might helpfully do for the State. His recommendations were so ably set forth that most of them became laws.

AID FOR THE COUNTRY HOME. - Since a majority of the people of North Carolina live in the country, the welfare of the farmers is necessary to the progress of the State. The Governor was disturbed because at that time many of the farmers, especially the small farmers, were not prospering, and not a few of them were giving up their country homes and moving to towns. He said in his first speech to the Legislature: "The small farm, owned by the man who tills it, is the best plant-bed in the world in which to grow a patriot." He believed that the law-makers should take some steps to make life in the country more comfortable and more prosperous. In carrying out

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his thought the Legislature passed a good many laws with this end in view.

NEW LAWS TO AID THE FARMERS. - To lighten the toil in the country home, the engineers of the Highway Commission were directed to prepare at State expense plans for electric light and water plants for county neighborhoods and even for any single family. The engineers were also directed to aid in forming companies and putting in rural telephone exchanges. To enable the people of a neighborhood to join their efforts to get these and other comforts, a law was adopted permitting a community to be incorporated just as towns are. These incorporated neighborhoods could then make their own laws about roads, schools, health, police protection, and local homes for the helpless. Moreover, such united neighborhoods were permitted to establish libraries, parks, play-grounds, fairs - all under their own control.

To provide wholesome pleasures for the older as well as the younger people in the country, the State Superintendent of Education was instructed to prepare moving pictures, selected for their entertaining and educational value, and send these into such country neighborhoods as wished them. In order that school neighborhoods might have a comfortable place for their public meetings and social gatherings, school boards were instructed to include an assembly room in all new school buildings. In addition, the sum given to the Library Commission for buying and sending out books and other literature to brighten lonesome country homes and to cheer the pupils of out-of-the-way and book-bare schools was enlarged. At the same time school boards were given power to arrange terms with town libraries by which country readers could draw books from their shelves.

FORWARD STEPS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION. - Governor Bickett told the Legislature that it was unjust for any country children to be denied long school terms simply because they lived in sections that were

the thought the legislature passed a good many laws with this end in

view. To all the people - To lighten the toll in the country.

and the members of the Highway Commission were directed to prepare

at least express plans for electric light and water plants for every

neighborhood and even for the single family. The members were also

directed to see in forming new cities and villages in the I. Highway

neighborhood. To create the basis of a neighborhood to form itself

efforts to get these and other matters. It was hoped that this

organization to be formed would have a better chance of being

neighborhoods could then make their own laws about roads, schools,

water, police protection, and local laws for the highway. Later

over, such united neighborhoods were permitted to establish libraries,

clubs, play-grounds, fairs - all under their own control.

To provide wholesome pleasures for the old as well as the

younger people in the country, the State Superintendent of Education

was instructed to prepare moving pictures, selected for their enter-

taining and educational value, and send these into each country neigh-

borhood as widely as possible. In order that school neighborhoods might

have a comfortable place for their public meetings and social gather-

ings, school boards were instructed to include an assembly room in

all new school buildings. In addition, the law gave to the library

commission the power to buy and send out books and other literature to

children in country homes and to other the people of out-of-

the-way and back-hill schools as required. At the same time school

boards were given power to arrange terms with local libraries by which

country children could draw books from their shelves.

THE LAW GAVE US PUBLIC LIBRARIES - Governor Blakeslee told the

legislature that it was urgent for the country children to be supplied

with books. Every child should have a book in his hands that was

unable to pay extra taxes for added days. "Every town child," he said in urging a session of six months, "has this much schooling already, and no man can look a country boy in the face and deny him the right of an equal start." The Legislature asked the people to vote whether they wanted to change the Constitution so as to require a school term of six instead of four months. The people ordered the change by an overwhelming vote - 122,062 for it; only 20,095 against it. In order to complete the matter, the Legislature followed this important act by a law compelling parents or guardians to send all children between the ages of eight and fourteen to school for whatever period a school is kept open.

In 1917 the Congress of the United States passed what is known as the Smith-Hughes Act. This act set aside large sums of money for the founding of vocational schools in each State. A vocational school, as most young people know, is a school in which the courses of study are arranged to give special training in the callings, or vocations, by which the pupils expect to earn their living. Before any State can receive money under this act, the Legislature must agree to appropriate for such schools as many dollars as Congress allots to that State.

The Legislature of North Carolina gladly gave the money necessary to secure the State's share of this fund, and appointed a Board of Directors to operate these schools. For the year ending June 1922, 8,547 children and grown people received instruction in the schools or classes formed under this Act. In addition to its other duties, the Board for Vocational Schools is required to seek out young people who are crippled or disabled in any way. If their condition permits, these children of misfortune are taught some occupation by which they may have the joy of making an independent support. All the Farm Life Schools, established by former acts of the Legislature, were also

able to pay extra taxes for added days. "Every town child" as
this is written a session of six months, "and this is the schooling
freely, and no one can look a penny out of the pocket of the
right of an equal state." The Legislature asked the people to
the whether they wanted to change the Constitution so as to require
school term of six instead of four months. The people wanted it
change by an overwhelming vote - 102,000 for and only 20,000 against
it. In order to complete the matter, the Legislature called a town
meeting and by a large majority passed a resolution to have all
children between the ages of four and fourteen to attend the school
and no one a school is to be closed.
In 1917 the Governor of the United States passed what is known
as the Smith-Hughes act. This act set aside \$100,000,000 for
the founding of vocational schools in each state. A vocational
school, as most young people know, is a school in which the students
of study are arranged to give special training in one thing, or
vocations, by which the pupils expect to earn their living. Before
any state can receive money under this act, the Legislature must agree
to appropriate for each school as many dollars as Congress allows to
that state.
The Legislature of North Carolina finally gave the money necessary
to secure the State's share of this fund, and received a kind of
disbursement to operate these schools. For the year ending June 30, 1918,
\$3,500 children and grown people received instruction in the schools
in classes found under this act. In addition to the other classes,
the State for Vocational schools is required to teach such young people
who are eligible or desirous in any way. If their condition permits,
these children of minor time are taught some occupation by which they
may have the joy of making an independent support. All the State
schools, established by former acts of the Legislature, were also

put under the control of the Board for Vocational Education.

The growth of the State High Schools was rapidly adding to the numbers of boys and girls who wished to enter the higher institutions. The Governor and the Legislature saw that the State's yearly income was not large enough to provide sufficient room in these institutions and in the charitable institutions to meet the enlarged needs of the people. The Governor in a special message to the Legislature said: "We are therefore called upon to decide whether it is our duty to close the doors of the educational and charitable institutions to all new comers and mark time for two years, or to bond the future that we may bless it." The Legislature met the crisis by ordering that bonds to the extent of three million dollars should be sold and the money used to begin the enlargement of these institutions.

The census of 1910 brought out the sad fact there were then in North Carolina 241,497 persons over ten years of age who could not read nor write. While the Legislators were offering greater opportunities than ever to the young people, they sought a way to help these grown people who had been neglected in their youth. Finally, in 1919, it was agreed that only a regular never-stopping effort by the State could remove this handicap of ignorance. The Legislature, therefore, provided funds for the State Department of Education to open special day and night schools for these illiterates, as they are called.

RELIEF OF THE UNFORTUNATE AND THE HELPLESS. - A growing interest in the relief and comfort of the unfortunate and the helpless led to the establishment of some new institutions and to the improvement of others. An industrial home and training school for wayward girls was created at Samarcand in Moore County. An orthopaedic hospital, that is, a hospital for treating children who are crippled or deformed

in body or limb, was founded at Gastonia. An appropriation was made for the Home for the Widows of Confederate Soldiers at Fayetteville. Counties were granted a general charter to provide hospitals for their consumptives. In order that all the State's charities may receive constant oversight, the duties and powers of the Department of Public Welfare were enlarged.

SOCIAL QUESTIONS. - North Carolina was growing steadily in town and village population. Homes were being crowded nearer together than ever before in our history. Hence there was reason to dread sickness unless care were taken. The Governor, declaring that

The riches of a Commonwealth
Are free, strong minds, and hearts of health,

urged that nothing be left undone to prevent sickness. The Legislature answered his appeal by putting more money for service and more authority in the hands of the Board of Health, and directing that body to prepare and enforce such rules as would promote public health.

The wealth of the State was growing. Hence, more money was being paid to the State Treasurer. The people, however, were asking for many improvements that were costly. It was becoming more and more necessary in spending such large sums to see that the money going out was not greater than the money coming in. To guard against this a Committee called the Budget Committee was created. This Committee first finds out how much money is likely to come into the Treasury for the next two years. Then it recommends for each of the separate divisions of State work only such sums as will, when added, be within the income.

These plans for building up the State were rudely interrupted by one of the worst calamities that can befall a nation - a modern war. In this case, too, it was a war in which so many nations were taking part that it is known as the "World War." When this war began

in body or limb, was founded at Antioch. In opposition to the
 for the East for the tribes of Cappadocia, Pontus and Bithynia.
 families were granted a general charter to govern themselves
 their own way. In order that all the State's officials
 receive constant oversight, the duties and powers of the
 of Public Affairs were enlarged.

Social Justice. - North Carolina has growing steadily in both
 and village population. There are many small towns and cities
 ever before in our history. These towns are growing at a rapid
 unless some new system of government is adopted.

The rights of the citizen are being
 the law, the courts, and the people are being
 urged that nothing be left undone to protect citizens. The
 now enacted his appeal by giving more money for service and more
 authority to the hands of the State of North Carolina, and trusting that they
 to prepare the evidence which will be used to promote public health.

The welfare of the State was growing. Hence, more money was being
 paid to the State Government. The people, however, were called to
 their responsibilities that were costly. It was becoming more and more
 necessary to spending more money to see that the money going out
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 first finds out how much money is likely to come into the treasury
 for the next two years. Then it recommends for each of the agencies
 divisions of State work only such sums as will, when added, be within
 the income.

These plans for dealing up the State were much improved
 by one of the most important that can befall a nation - a modern
 war. In this case, too, it was a war in which no money was being
 taking care that it is known as the "War Tax". When this war began

in Europe, few people thought that our peace-loving country would be drawn into it. Our people did not take up arms until the frightful struggle had been going on for three years. Nor did we turn to force until our President had tried in every way to make Germany respect our rights.

The war into which our country was driven was one of peculiar horrors. Unless we know something of these terrors we cannot understand the heroism of those who stood unafraid among them. Science and invention had united to create new and to make over almost every old instruments of mangling and death. This struggle in which twenty-seven nations took part differed from former wars in three ways:

First, in the enormous number of men engaged. The number of men killed, 7,000,000, was greater than the entire number of men ever engaged in any single earlier war of which we know.

Second, in former wars men fought only on the surface of the ground and of the water. In this war they slew one another in the air, on the ground, under the ground in trenches, on the water, and under the water in the newly invented submarines, or boats to sail under the water.

Third, in the many new forms of warfare. The activities of one of the recent inventions, the airplane, were almost endless. These swift-moving machines were used in bearing urgent messages; in making maps of roads and territory; in finding the position of troops; in destroying enemy observational balloons and signal stations; in fighting enemy airplanes; in dropping explosive bombs on troops, on food and ammunition stores, on forts, on trenches, on ships and on towns and cities; in directing by wireless messages the fire of cannon and machine guns.

Another new agent of death was the great armored tractor, called a tank. This monster ran by its own power on a track of its own, and

in spite of its clumsy looks, managed to carry its sheltered gunners into almost any sort of battle. The gunners in the car used either rapid fire guns or small tank cannon. The rapid-fire gun came into its own during these years of hate. These guns poured out an almost continuous stream of bullets.

Then, too, there were new horrors caused by the wide use of poisonous gases. While such gases were tried certainly as far back as 421 years B. C., their use was never fully approved by civilized nations. In 1900 Germany, after some other nations had also promised, pledged its faith never "to use shells whose only object was to give out suffocating and poisonous gases." Germany broke this pledge April 1915, and destroyed a large number of Canadians with chlorine gas. The nations that were at war with the Germans felt compelled to fight them with the same weapon.

Several kinds of gases were used. One of these, called phosphorus gas, raised a cloud screen behind which soldiers advanced unseen to attack. Another, called tear gas, blinded the eyes by causing a flow of tears. Still another, known as mustard gas, burnt severely whatever it touched. The most deadly of all the gases was called phosgene gas. This was used only to kill. These gases were hurled toward an enemy in hand bombs or grenades. They were fired in shells from rifles and cannon, but the most frightful quantities were thrown by machines called projectors. For these machines the gas was put in large containers known as drums. The drums were about 24 inches long and 8 inches thick. By turning an electrical switch in the machine, a rain of these big shells with their foul poisons came hurtling down on the soldiers.

When the two great opposing armies had fought each other to a standstill and had fallen into trench warfare, inventors brought back

into use many of the old weapons for hand to hand battles, and added new ones to them. Hand grenades were made more deadly. French knives, including the cruel saw-tooth knife, clubs, hammers, sawed-off shot guns, and other weapons took a tool of death. While one set of men were preparing ways to take life, another set, fortunately, were inventing ways to save lives. Steel helmets, protectors for the chest and for arms and legs were made in imitation of the armor of the knights of old. The helmet and the mask, which was worn over the face to keep out the creeping poisons used in gas attacks, were the most successful protectors.

Our American soldiers had to brace themselves against a new danger before they arrived at the firing line. The staunchly-built German submarine boats were prowling under the waters of all the European coasts. They lurked in wait to destroy with powerful torpedoes the crowded troop ships. Hence these ships had to be guarded by armed vessels. Many North Carolinians were officers and sailors in these protecting vessels. The duty of guarding the soldiers and of searching all seas for the cruel submarines was trying and dangerous: The men on the armed boats could rest little either day or night. They could not stop for storms or freezing days - always with watchful eyes they must scour the seas. No more wearing and no more patriotic service was ever done than was done by the men of the English and the American navies.

There was, however, one bright side to this war. No other troops were ever so well cared for as the American soldiers were in this struggle. In the forty-four great training camps ever provision was made for their comfort and recreation. The camps were laid off by men trained for such service. The houses were heated, and all electrically lighted. They were supplied with comfortable beds,

healthful water, baths, laundries. The food, prepared in sanitary bakeries and kitchens, was drawn from every market. The sick were nursed in excellently equipped hospitals. The camps were provided with theatres, picture shows, music, libraries. After their training period was over the soldiers were followed to the field by every sort of attention that men can receive in war.

Once in this frightful struggle our country bent its back to bear the burden of expense, labor, and sorrow that always comes with war. With speed it provided what soldiers call the three m's of war; namely, men, money, and munitions. The men were secured in the main by what is known as a selective draft. However, as soon as we declared war, thousands of young men volunteered for service in the regular army, in the national guard, in the marine corps, and in the navy, of which Josephus Daniels of North Carolina was Secretary.

Even before our country entered the war many young Americans had slipped across the ocean and volunteered to fight for France. These men were shocked by the cruelties of Germany and looked on Germany's acts as a crime against the rights of all nations. Among these, four North Carolinians distinguished themselves by skill and bravery as members of the famous French Lafayette flying squadron. All four of them were killed in battles in the air. Their names were James H. Baugham of Washington, Arthur Bluethenthal of Wilmington, James R. McConnell of Carthage, and Kiffin Yates Rockwell of Asheville.

THE SELECTIVE DRAFT. - In addition to the volunteers, a very large number of men were drawn into the army by the selective draft act of Congress. Under this law all men between the ages of twenty-

one and thirty-one years years of age were required to give in their names and occupations to a county board known as the Draft Board. This Board selected for soldiers all who were fit in body and mind to stand the hard life of soldiers and who had no family dependent on their daily labor. As soon as these two selections had been finished, the men accepted were sent to the great training camps to be prepared for service in the field. Before the men were finally put in the army a third selection was made. Those who could by their skill in some trade or profession do more to help win the war than they could by fighting were put at that work. In every county small groups of lawyers, known as Legal Advisory Boards, helped the men to fill out their enrollment cards for the Draft Boards and to arrange their business affairs at home.

THE AMERICAN ARMY. - In these ways an army of four million men was raised, uniformed, armed, and drilled, and two million of them crossed over to France. The intelligent and vigorous support given to the Allies by these two million fresh men enabled them to defeat the Germans before the other two million could be sent over. North Carolina furnished ^{85,211} 85,214 men to this vast army. In addition many young men from North Carolina, who were then living in other States, went into service from their adopted homes. Seven generals in the regular army were born in this State. In the American fleet that crossed the Atlantic, there were eight monster battle-ships called Dreadnaughts. Four of these were commanded by North Carolina officers. Of these 684 were killed in battle, 238 died of wounds, 601 died of disease, and 87 were killed in different ways. Thus in all 1,610 gave up their lives for their country. 4,128 were more or less severely wounded.

MONEY FOR THE WAR. - The tremendous sums of money needed to

one and thirty-one years of age were required to give in their names and occupations to a county board in the month of March. This board selected for soldiers all who were fit in body and mind to stand the hard life of soldiers and who had no family dependent on their daily labor. As soon as these two selections had been finished, the men accepted were sent to the great training camp to be prepared for service in the field. Before the men were finally put in the army a third selection was made. Those who could do their skill in some trade or profession to more to help out the war than they could by fighting were put in a third class. In this class they were grouped of course, known as legal advisers, engineers, etc. The men to fill out their enrollment cards for the War Board and to arrange their business affairs at home.

THE AMERICAN ARMY. - In these ways an army of four million men was raised, uniformed, armed, and drilled, and mobilized of them crossed over to France. The intelligent and vigorous soldiers given to the lines by these two million Frenchmen enabled them to defeat the Germans before the other two million could be sent over. North Carolina furnished more men to this war than any other State. Young men from North Carolina, who were then living in other States, went into service from their adopted homes. Never again in the regular army were there in this State. In the American fleet that crossed the Atlantic, there were eight monster battle-ships called Dreadnoughts. Four of these were commanded by North Carolina officers. Of these 684 were killed in battle, 228 died of wounds, 601 died of disease, and 87 were killed in different ways. Thus in all 1,610 gave a their lives for their country. 4,123 were more or less severely wounded.

NOTES FOR THE WAR. - The tremendous sums of money needed to

carry on such a war were secured by extra taxes and by loans. People of all classes lent their money to the Government in exchange for War Savings Stamps and Liberty Bonds. The people of North Carolina turned over \$160,000,000 for the Government's war purposes. In addition, they gave \$3,000,000 to the different bodies that were caring for the welfare and comfort of the soldiers and their families.

MUNITIONS OF WAR. - The United States had never kept up a large army. Hence there were in our country very few factories for making ammunition, rifles, cannon, and other war-time needs. A single comparison will show the difference between the amounts of material needed in the World War and in our other wars. The Civil War was the greatest war in which our country had ever before engaged. During the entire year's battles of 1864 the Union gunners fired their cannons only 1,950,000 times; during only one month of 1918 the French gunners alone fired their artillery 81,070,000 times, and in the Battle of the Argonne Forest the American gunners fired 4,214,000 times. To supply the almost endless needs of four million fighting men, and, at the same time, deliver every sort of raw and finished supplies to our European allies, taxed every power of our enterprising people. Before we could produce the material we had either to build new factories or change peace factories to war factories and train the workmen for the new employment. Our factories, too, had to construct not only the weapons of war but all the articles needed by the soldiers to make these weapons count. Think of the numberless big things, like engines, motors, trucks, automobiles, tanks, airplanes, balloons, ambulances, and wagons, that were needed, and of the millions of lesser things, like canteens, haversacks, nails, hammers, trench tools, repair parts, that must be furnished.

North Carolina was a contributor to these necessities. Ships

carry on such a war were secured by extra taxes and by 10-15% increase
of all salaries and their money to the Government in exchange for
the Savings Bonds and Liberty Bonds. The people of North Carolina
turned over \$100,000,000 for the Government's war purposes. In 1918
the Government gave \$100,000,000 to the different bodies that were working
for the welfare and comfort of the soldiers and their families.
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big things, like engines, motors, trucks, automobiles, tanks, air-
planes, balloons, ambulances, and wagons, that were needed, and of
the millions of lesser things, like canteens, handkerchiefs, knives, hats,
more, trench tools, repair parts, that must be furnished.
North Carolina was a contributor to these necessities. Ships

were built in some of our ports. Our cotton, woollen, and knitting factories furnished cloth, blankets, socks, underwear, sheets and surgical dressings for hospitals. Other plants produced tobacco and cigarettes, beds, lumber, crates, barrels, kegs, handles, canned goods, medicines, oils, paper, aluminum, mica, and other articles. The Red Cross societies contributes 2,500,000 articles of their own handicraft.

BUSY TIMES AT HOME. - The feeling of North Carolina bout its war duties was set forth in a remark of one of its citizens. He said, "When my country and my boys went to war, I went to war." The citizens gave themselves over heartily to answer every call of the Government, and to meet every duty at home. Many volunteered for service in great bodies, like the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus, the Jewish Welfare Board, and the War Camp Community Service - all bodies that were trying to make life in camp and field more cheerful, more comfortable, more wholesome, more religious, than soldier life often is. Whatever the Government wanted done, whether to watch for spies or manage a business, whether to find materials or to manufacture them, whether to nurse in a hospital or run a railroad, - no matter what, there was always some man or woman ready to say: "You may have me."

In order to get the people to know and to carry out the wishes of the Government several bodies were formed. Each of these, in addition to the central and governing committee, had smaller groups in every county and often in every neighborhood.

The most useful of these bodies was the Red Cross Society. This society of devoted workers had been formed years ago, but it was now adopted by the Government. This body, with the help of its 250,000

members in North Carolina, abounded in good works. Its members nursed the sick, the wounded, and the dying in the camps of America and of Europe. They stretched out helping hands to all in want or sorrow. They sewed and knitted, and prepared countless rolls of bandages for the wounded. At important railroad stations they established what they called Canteens, where the workers met every train of soldiers passing through. No tired soldiers were allowed to pass their stations without welcome, food, and good cheer.

There were other large bodies like the Council of Defense to receive, explain, and carry out the general plans of the Government. Like the Liberty Loan and War Savings Stamps Committees to raise the almost unbelievably large sums needed to carry on a great war. Like the Food and Fuel Administration to get the wasteful American people to save food for our soldiers and their exhausted allies, and fuel for our great manufacturies. In short, while the World War took millions of soldiers, it required also the earnest efforts of millions of citizens to supply the soldiers.

THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE STATE. - The ninety-two thousand men from North Carolina were distributed into almost every kind of soldierly service, and scattered into regiments from almost every State. For example, the two hundred North Carolinians who won Distinguished Services Crosses represented twenty-three different branches of service. However, the North Carolina National Guard, 7,454 men, was assigned almost solidly to the Thirtieth Division. This Division, which was trained at Camp Sevier in South Carolina, took the nickname of the "Old Hickory" Division. The Sixtieth Brigade of this Division, made up originally of North Carolinians, was our largest unit in the war. This Brigade, commanded by General Samuel L. Faison, a North Carolina officer of the regular army, was composed of the 119th

infantry under Colonel John Van B. Metts, the 120th infantry under Colonel Sidney W. Minor, and the 115th Machine Gun Battalion under Major Wentworth W. Pierce. The 105th Regiment of Engineers, commanded until his promotion to be a general by Colonel Harley B. Ferguson, and then by Colonel Joseph Hyde Pratt, was also formed of North Carolina units of the National Guard. The 113th Field Artillery, commanded by Colonel Albert L. Cox and formed in June and July, 1917, was also at first a purely North Carolina regiment. In addition to these four regiments and one battalion, eight new companies were formed to enter United States service through the National Guard.¹ The six companies of Coast Artillery were assigned to the Cape Fear Coast Defense Command. Six units of Naval Militia were also formed in the State. In order to keep these North Carolina units full, drafted men from other States were later added to them.

THE RECORD OF OUR NATIONAL GUARD MEN. - The Sixtieth Brigade and the One Hundred and Fifth Engineers of the Thirtieth Division were assigned to duty with the British troops in the trenches south of the celebrated town of Ypres. Their division was called to its first battle on August 31 in front of Mount Kemmel. The division, fighting

1. These were as follows:

Cavalry Troops, Captain Frank W. Swann, at Andrews. Cavalry Troops, Captain Thomas J. Gause, at Wilmington. Machine Gun Troop, Captain Robert G. Cherry, at Gastonia. Field Signal Company, Captain William V. Dorsey, at Sylva. Supply Train Company, Captain William M. Boylan, at Raleigh. Ambulance Company, Captain Francis M. Davis, at Canton. Engineer Company, Captain Edward W. Myers, at Greensboro. Engineer Train, Captain Richard D. Clowe, at Wilmington. These companies were all assigned to the 30th Division, except the Engineer Company, which went to the 42nd Division.

as steadily as their fighting British comrades, captured the fortified town of Voormezeele and the lines to the north of it. The division was then moved out of Belgium into the trenches around Bellicourt France. There it was prepared to take part in an attack on the most famous of the German lines of defense - the Hindenburg Line. This strong line, the last great line between our troops and Germany, was really three lines. The front of each of these lines was protected by vast fields of barbed wire fences and entanglements. Before they could get to the trenches, our soldiers had, of course, to cut their way through this wire. The high ground behind the trenches was dotted with machine-guns that were often covered with cement houses, called pill-boxes. Deep dugouts, some of them thirty feet deep, protected the Germans from cannon fire. A tunnel of the Saint Quentin Canal formed a part of the third line of defenses in front of our soldiers. This deep cut, filled with soldiers, was connected with the trenches by underground roads. There was not a foot of ground in front of these strong works but that was swept by German guns. It seemed almost like madness to rush men into this fire of death. The Germans thought that no troops could break through these trenches.

At daylight on September 29, 1918, the American troops, who in the darkness had swarmed out of their own trenches, and stood now on what they called the "jumping off tape," rushed against those tangled wires. The attack of the Thirtieth Division was led by the Sixtieth Brigade. They were met by cannon fire of every kind, by showers of bullets from barking machine-guns, by rifles, and by creeping poisonous gases. With a courage rarely matched, this brigade and its comrades broke through the entire line, captured the dreaded tunnel, and freed Bellicourt and the neighboring country from German rule. They pushed before them two German divisions, and captured 1,481 officers and men. So great was this feat that General Pershing, the

American Commander-in-Chief, said to the division: Your "especial glory will always be the honor you won by breaking the Hindenburg Line." After a brief rest the division was called back to the firing line for the fierce battles in October, which ended in the defeat of the Germans. The division stormed its way in days of battle from Brancourt until exhausted it reached the heights of Catillon across the La Selle River.

The One Hundred and Fifth Engineers, which the Commander of the British Second Army declared "a thoroughly efficient unit, officered by qualified engineers," were, of course, not combat troops. Its men, often under fire, were day and night engaged in hard service. They built light railways, kept the roads open, constructed bridges, tested water supplies, laid off defences - in short, met the demands of modern warfare. In a farewell note, General Faison said of the regiment: "Devotion to duty and splendid discipline were the key-notes to its magnificent achievements."

The One Hundred and Thirteenth Field Artillery Regiment was separated from the Thirtieth Division, and fought further south. An attacking army made up entirely of American troops had volunteered for the difficult task of trying to wipe out a V.-shaped line of trenches near St. Mihiel. The Germans had held this salient, as the V.-shaped line was called, for nearly four years. "You can take it," said a French officer to some Americans, "in six months - perhaps." Beginning on September 12, the Americans pinched it off in two days of bitter fighting. The One Hundred and Thirteenth Regiment took part in this great victory. The "curtain of steel" formed by the shells dropped from their guns in front of the foot-soldiers, and the accurate way in which their shells tore down the wires and cut up the machine-guns won the praises of the troops with them.

After this battle the regiment was again moved to add its guns to the greatest battle in which American troops were ever engaged. This was the terrible battle in the Argonne Forest. From September 26 to October 6 the One Hundred and Thirteenth fought its way through the tangled morasses of this forest and the open plains along the roads northward. Men and horses and guns were battered and stricken, but the guns could not stop. The fiercest fighting was around Montfaucon, where even the chaplain, Benjamin R. Lacy, Jr., manned a battery, just captured, and turned the guns on their German owners, - and on the road leading from Montfaucon to Ivairy and the woods beyond, where the First Battalion gathered rifles and knives to fight with in case ammunition gave out. Some idea of the roar and destruction through which this North Carolina battery fought can be gained from these facts. 1,200,000 Americans set their faces against the Germans. The infantry rifle attack was strengthened by 324 lumbering tanks, by 840 airplanes, and by 2,417 cannon whose blasts shook the ground like an earthquake.

The only North Carolina unit that was not a part of the Thirtieth Division was the Engineer Train. This company, which was formed around Wilmington, fought with the Forty-second Division, known as the Rainbow Division. It made a gallant record at Chateau Thierry, at St. Mihiel, and in the Argonne Forest.

THE DRAFTED MEN. - The American soldiers who were called under the draft law went into service as individuals and not as members of companies or regiments. Our North Carolina drafted men, like those from our sister States, went to fill vacancies or to join with men from other States in forming new companies. Hence their personal records cannot now be summed up. It will, no doubt, interest their families to know that the Government is preparing cards giving each man's record. So far as these cards have been finished, they show

that the soldierly conduct of these scattered men did not fall below that of their comrades in North Carolina units.

THE AMERICAN SPIRIT. - A few of the recorded deaths of North Carolina officers and men will illustrate the high ideals of the American soldiers in France and Belgium. Kiffin Rockwell was killed in his one hundred and third battle in the clouds. Captain Ben F. Dixon, of Asheboro, already twice severely wounded, sacrificed his life to pull his men out of their own artillery fire. Captain John E. Ray of Raleigh, a surgeon, was shot to death when pushing beyond his field station to attend men who were being wounded in battle. Lieutenant Guy J. Winstead of Roxboro, after leading three squads across the Marne River under shell fire, and after attacking a German patrol with only five men, was killed in the final attack of the day. Lieutenant Robert B. Anderson of Wilson, at the close of a brave charge, left a sheltered place to which he had been ordered and fell while making sure that all his men were safely under cover. Sergeant Paul B. Jenkins of Franklinton was shot to death while sticking, under heavy shelling, to his task of putting in a needed field telephone. Walter Waldrop of Sylva, with one officer and five other men, saved an important hill by beating back a company of fifty Germans, but lost his life by his gallantry. Corporal Youman C. Weeks of North Cedar Point, absolutely alone, attacked a machine-gun, killed one member of the crew and captured the five others; a short time later he was killed in a similar attack. Benjamin R. Smith of Ash, bleeding from two wounds received in an onset of his own company, was killed when he joined an Australian platoon for another battle. Hundreds of others, whose records will one day be known, showed a kindred spirit.

PEACE AT LAST. - The end of this war of horrors, in November

that the soldierly conduct of these scattered men and not full units
that of their comrades in North Carolina units.
THE AMERICAN SPIRIT - A few of the renowned leaders of North
Carolina officers and men will illustrate the high ideals of the
American soldier in France and Belgium. Edwin Goodell was killed
in his one hundred and thirty battle in one campaign. Captain John P.
Pike, of Ashboro, already twice severely wounded, considered his
life to gain his men out of their own military life. Captain John
E. Day of Raleigh, a surgeon, was shot to death when guiding beyond
his field station an armed man who was being wounded in battle.
Lieutenant George J. Simpson of Hockley, after leading his company
across the river under a hail fire, and after attacking a battery
patrol with only five men, was killed in the final attack of the day.
Lieutenant Robert S. Anderson of Wilson, at the close of a brave
charge, left a shattered place in which he had been ordered and fell
while waiting near that all his men were safely under cover. Sergeant
Paul H. Johnson of Hamilton was shot to death while attacking
under heavy shelling, to his loss of getting in a needed relief.
Phonics. After a day of giving, with one officer and two other men,
saved an important hill by beating back a company of fifty Germans.
and lost his life by his gallantry. Corporal Thomas T. Smith of
New Hope, North Carolina, absolutely alone, attacked a machine-gun, killed
one member of the crew and captured the five others in a short time.
Later he was killed in a similar attack. Edwin Goodell was killed
bleeding from two wounds received in an attack of his company, was
killed when he joined an American platoon for another battle. Men
died of disease, whose records will not be known, whose names
exist.

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1918, left the European countries with bare storehouses, empty purses, enormous debts, destroyed factories, shell-plowed fields, wrecked homes, and dissatisfied and saddened hearts. Many thousand helpless people starved during and after the war. Many thousand more would have died but for help from the United States. Our soldiers, therefore, returned from these burdened lands with great relief to find peace and comfort at home. They came back in triumph, but they came with a hope that our country may be spared from the blight of another war.

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